



**The City
of Durham**
**Department
of Solid Waste
Management**
**(919)
560-4185**

Winter 2003



Carts at the curb? *Be a good neighbor!*

Once your garbage and recyclables have been collected, the cart and bin left at your curb become a potential traffic hazard and a definite eyesore. That's why Durham will soon begin issuing more than warnings to residents who leave these carts and bins at the curb for days after pickup. After a series of warnings, residents may be fined.

The empty 90-gallon carts can cause accidents. Carts standing at or near the side of the road can block motorists' views, making turns and street crossings hazardous. Carts can also roll or fall into the street, blocking lanes of traffic and creating the need for sudden stops or swerves by drivers. Carts left on the sidewalk become a potential hazard to pedestrians because the carts restrict views and can lead to falls.

Although safety is the City's greatest concern, empty carts at the curb also affect how our neighborhoods look—and how residents and visitors feel about them.

Warning tags are placed on the carts that remain at the curb beyond the area's collection day. More than 1,000 violation notices were issued in 2002.

Be a good neighbor! Pull your carts away from the street and to the side or back of your residence on the same day that garbage and recyclables are collected.



These carts have been left at the curb following the area's collection day.

¿Sabia usted que dejar su carreta de basura y recipiente de reciclaje en la acera después de su día de recolección es una violación del Código de la Ciudad? Las carretas y recipientes dejadas en la acera son antiestéticos e impiden la vista de automovilistas y peatones. Sea un buen vecino y una vez que su basura y reciclaje fueron recolectados, regrese su carreta y recipiente al lado o la parte trasera de su residencia.

Mark your calendars for the 2003 Durham Earth Day Festival!

**Saturday, April 26
Noon to 5 p.m.
Historic Durham Athletic Park
500 West Corporation Street**

FREE!

www.durhamearthday.org



El Festival del Día de La Tierra del 2003 se llevará al cabo el Sábado 26 de abril, 2003, en el Parque Atlético Histórico de Durham (500 West Corporation Street). ¡La entrada es GRATIS y habrá educación ambiental práctica para los niños y adultos, entretenimiento, casetas ambientales, buena comida y mucho más!



At the 2002 Durham Earth Day Festival, kids were happy to meet Earl and Pearl, the mascots of the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

Waste Less Fests set for 2003

Several times a year, we celebrate conservation, waste reduction, and recycling with a "Waste Less Fest." At these Waste Less Fests, you can recycle your mixed paper, exchange your broken recycling bin for a free replacement, buy a compost bin or an additional recycling bin, and exchange your current shower-head for a free, low-flow alternative (or buy one for only \$3).

The 2003 Waste Less Fests are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following dates at the locations listed:

January 4 — Oxford Commons Shopping Center, 3500 N. Roxboro Rd., in front of Wal-Mart

March 1 — Northgate Mall, off Guess Rd., behind Office Max

May 3 — Festival Shopping Center, 3457 Hillsborough Rd., next to Kroger

June 7 — Woodcroft Shopping Center, off Hope Valley Rd., near Hwy. 54

August 2 — Heritage Square Shopping Center, beside Housing & Community Development Dept. on Fayetteville St. & Lakewood Ave., near Hwy. 147



The Department of Solid Waste Management sells two styles of compost bins at the Waste Less Fests for \$32 each. If you can't make it to the next Waste Less Fest, you can buy a compost bin at the department's facility, 1833 Camden Avenue, during regular office hours. Call 560-4185 for more information.

October 4 — Firestone at South Square, corner of University and Westgate Drives

November 15 — The Village Shopping Center, 1100 N. Miami Blvd., beside the Post Office

Need more information about the Waste Less Fests? Visit www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/solid/wr_paper_drives.asp.

What is Mixed Paper?

- Phone books
- White paperboard (white boxes which held dry food or goods)
- Brown paperboard (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, etc.)
- White and colored paper
- Booklets (soft cover)
- Magazines (no perfumes)
- Manila (non-padded) envelopes
- Folders

Sorry, but we cannot accept envelopes with plastic windows, wax- or plastic-coated paper, adhesives, fiber products with food contamination, spiral binders, plastic, or metals.

If you don't want to wait until the next Waste Less Fest to recycle your mixed paper, there are two drop-off locations for mixed paper:

- **Waste Disposal & Recycling Center**, 2115 East Club Blvd., Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-noon
- **TFC Recycling**, 1017 S. Hoover Rd.

El Departamento de Dirección de Residuos Sólidos ha fijado las fechas para el "Waste Less Fests" ("Festival Para Desperdiciar Menos") del 2003. En estos eventos conducidos los sábados, usuarios pueden reciclar sus papeles mezclados, comprar botes de abono, intercambiar sus regaderas actuales por un alternativo de flujo bajo GRATIS, o comprar uno por solo \$3.00. Cada evento se llevará al cabo de 10:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m.

Recycle your old phone book!

You can recycle your old phone book—but don't put it in your curbside bin. Instead, take it to one of the following recycling drop-off centers. These centers only will have special phone book recycling bins through February 14, 2003:

- **Festival Shopping Center**, 3457 Hillsborough Rd., next to Kroger
- **Firestone at South Square**, corner of University and Westgate Drives
- **Northgate Mall**, off Guess Rd., behind Office Max
- **Waste Disposal & Recycling Center**, 2115 E. Club Blvd. (Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 7:30 a.m.-noon)
- **Woodcroft Shopping Center**, off Hope Valley Rd., near Hwy. 54

Only unwrapped phone books are being accepted. Please do not include any plastic or paper bags.

Last year, we recycled more than 40 tons of phone books!

If you have questions, call 560-4185.

¡Recicle su guía telefónica vieja! Hasta el 14 de febrero, 2003, usted puede traer sus guías telefónicas viejas para reciclaje a uno de los siguientes centros para dejar los artículos reciclables: *Northgate Mall, Firestone at South Square, Festival Shopping Center, Woodcroft Shopping Center y al Waste Disposal & Recycling Center.* Recuerde que no puede poner las guías telefónicas en su recipiente de reciclaje azul.

Where did we get all this STUFF?

Have you ever asked a young child where milk comes from? Did that child answer, "The store"? We chuckle at this misunderstanding. However, we might hold some similar misunderstandings ourselves.

For instance, where do T-shirts and shoes come from? What about computers? Or, the fast food meal of burger, fries, and a cola? Tempted to answer as that young child did?

Find the real answers in John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning's book, *Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things* (Northwest Environment Watch, 1997).

Ryan and Durning set out to look at a typical day in the life of a consumer from the standpoint of resource consumption. Each day, the average American adult consumes about 120 pounds of resources—most of it indirectly. This includes all of the resources—from fuel to wood to farm products—that go into making the things that we use and eat every day.

In traveling through the consumer's day, Ryan and Durning trace the history and whereabouts of the components needed to make these common products: coffee, newspaper, T-shirts, shoes, bikes and cars, computers, a hamburger, fries, and a cola.

For instance, the T-shirt pulled on in the morning, made from half polyester and half cotton, weighs about 4 ounces. Here's where it might have come from:

The polyester portion of the T-shirt probably began its life as a few tablespoons of petroleum. The drilling operation used diesel fuel, heavy metals, and water to flush away rocks and debris and get to the oil. The crude oil was

then transported by ship to a refinery, made primarily from steel,

where it was processed into various products. Some of this processed oil went by truck or rail to a chemical factory where, through a long process involving several more chemicals, it was turned into long plastic fibers.

The 2 ounces of cotton in the T-shirt came from 14 square feet of cropland somewhere in the southern U.S. Tractors, irrigation systems, and various pesticides were used as the cotton was grown. A cotton gin separated the fibers from the seeds. The fibers were sent to another southern state to a textile mill where they were blended with the polyester fibers.

A knitting machine at a different textile mill created the fabric, which was then shipped to a foreign country where it was cut and sewn on a sewing machine to make the shirt. The shirt came back to the U.S. on a ship.

The example of the T-shirt points out that most of our products are better traveled than we are—and illustrates that fuel, transportation, machinery, human labor, and a host of other inputs go into every item that we handle throughout the day.

Look around you. Give some thought to how many resources were used just to build the walls standing in the room where you're seated reading this.

Intrigued? Check out a copy of *Stuff*. Not only will you have a new respect for the complexity of the items you use every day, but you'll also have a desire to purchase new products with care and consideration, to make them last as long as possible, and to reuse and recycle all you can before you dispose of anything.



Creative Design with CDs

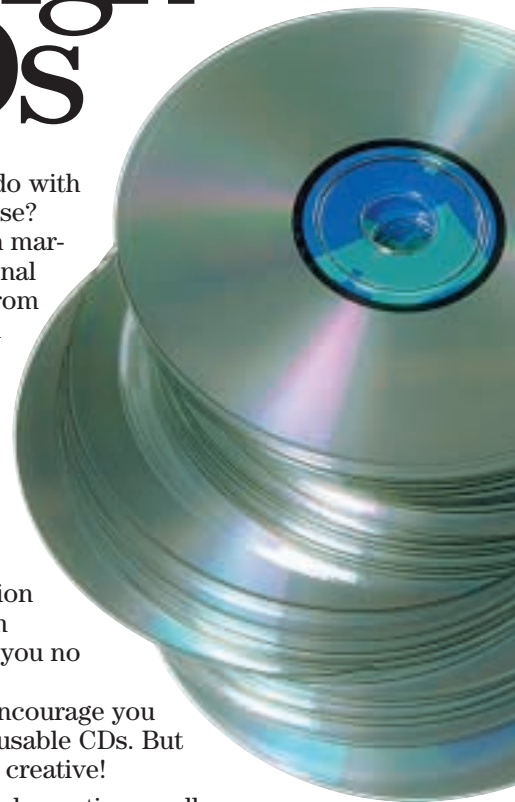
Wondering what to do with CDs that you can't use? Maybe you've gotten marketing and promotional CDs in the mail or from a store. Perhaps you have scratched or unusable CDs. What about those promotional games that never really seemed to play or games someone in your family has outgrown? Not to mention the host of CDs from computer programs you no longer use.

We, of course, encourage you to give away or sell usable CDs. But for those others, get creative!

- Don't buy shiny, decorative candle holders at the store. Put a CD shiny side up and center a candle on it. You've made your own beautiful candle base.
- Instead of buying reflective driveway markers, attach the shiny side of a CD to a small post, dowel, or stake. Place them at the edge of your driveway. You'll keep visitors off the grass—and folks backing up away from the mailbox.
- Using felt, cover one side of the CD. Cut the felt so that it's the same size and shape as the CD and glue it on. Now, place your new drink coaster felt side down.
- Does your house have a computer or media room? Create a clever window valance or wall hanging by suspending CDs with twine or fishing line. String the twine through a hole that you drill in the disc or run it through the existing hole in the middle.
- Provide CDs to a local artist or classroom that will use them to create art.

You can also recycle CDs. Search for "Compact Disc Recycling" or "CD Recycling" on the Internet. Or, visit these websites for details:

- www.greendisk.com
- www.lacerta.com
- www.sdm.sony.com/, click on "Services" and then on "CD Recycling"



Turning up the heat on thermostats

About 10 tons of mercury in solid waste each year come from thermostats. This results when used thermostats, many of which contain mercury, are improperly disposed with household or commercial waste.

During normal operation, the mercury in a thermostat is sealed within a glass bulb. The bulb is durable and attached to a metal strip that absorbs shock. The outer casing further protects the mercury bulb. Hanging on the wall, the mercury within the thermostat works as a switch and poses no harm to humans.

However, if thermostats are not handled carefully when they are removed, the glass bulb can break. This is especially likely if the thermostat is thrown into a box or bin with other items. Thermostats should always be handled with care.

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC), a non-profit corporation that was formed in 1998 by members of the National Electrical Manufacturers



Association, was established with the goal of recycling every used, wall-mounted, mercury-containing thermostat. By 2001, TRC offered recycling in all of the lower 48 states. During the first six months of 2002, TRC collected more than 28,000 thermostats and processed 231 pounds of mercury, an increase of 15 percent over the same period the previous year. Since 1998, TRC has recovered the mercury from 150,000 used thermostats. For information about TRC, visit www.nema.org/trc, or call 703-841-3249.

Manufacturers have begun to phase out mercury-containing thermostats in favor of electronic and other types that do not contain mercury. If you need to replace a thermostat, ask your retailer about recycling or ask your contractor to remove and recycle the old thermostat. Be sure to select a new thermostat that does not use a mercury switch. And, never place a mercury-containing thermostat in your trash.

Recycling and reduction continue to grow

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released its snapshot of how Americans handled their waste in the year 2000. There was some very good news in this report. Americans could have created and disposed nearly 300 million tons of trash in 2000—and didn't. More than 125 million tons of what might have become waste either wasn't created, or was reused, composted, or recycled.

First, waste generation appears to be stabilizing—at least for now. The average American generated 4.5 pounds of waste each day in 2000, down

from 4.62 pounds per day in 1999.

Second, recovery, including recycling and community-wide composting efforts, reached an all-time high—with 30.2 percent of all materials recovered!

Third, reduction of waste at its source also reached a new height. While 231.9 million tons of solid waste were created—55.1 million tons weren't. Nearly half of this reduction resulted from residents, businesses, and schools practicing grasscycling (mulching) and backyard composting. Much of the remainder came from a variety of products, such as

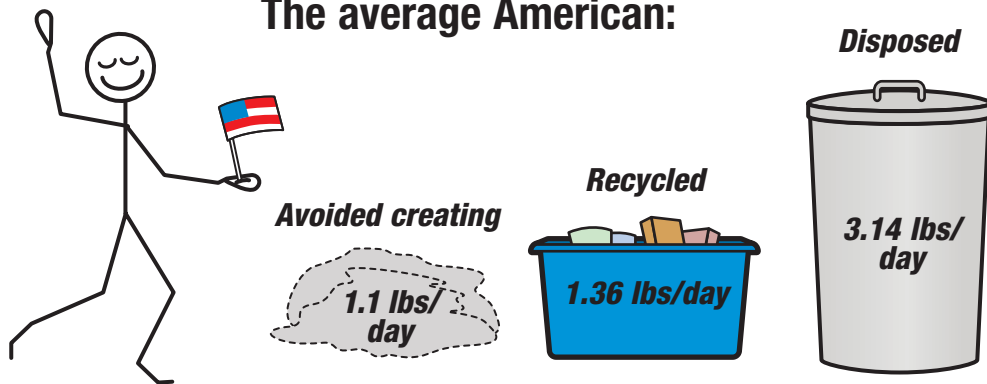
containers, packaging, and papers, getting lighter and thinner.

This is all good news as Americans strive to achieve the new goal set by the U.S. EPA—to recycle 35 percent of the waste created by the year 2005. Many communities have already achieved goals much higher than this, so we know it can be done nationwide.

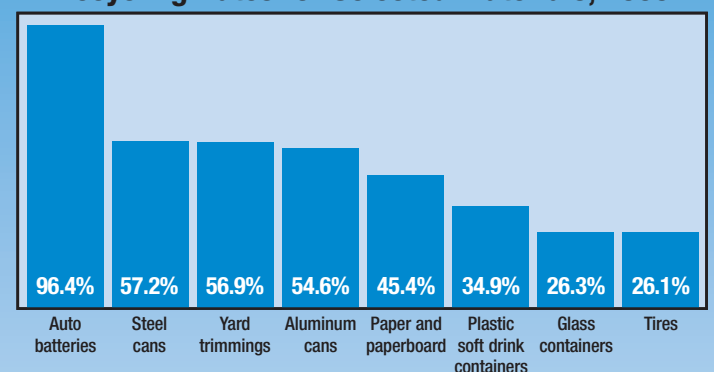
To view a copy of the report, visit this website: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl and click on "Basic Facts."

Here's how and what Americans are doing with waste

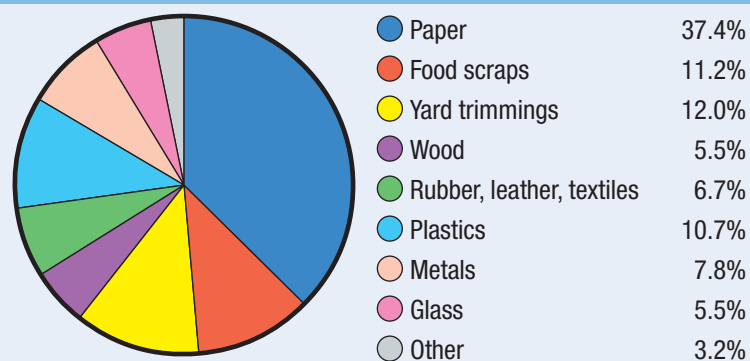
The average American:



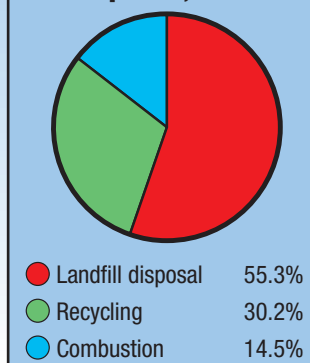
Recycling Rates for Selected Materials, 2000



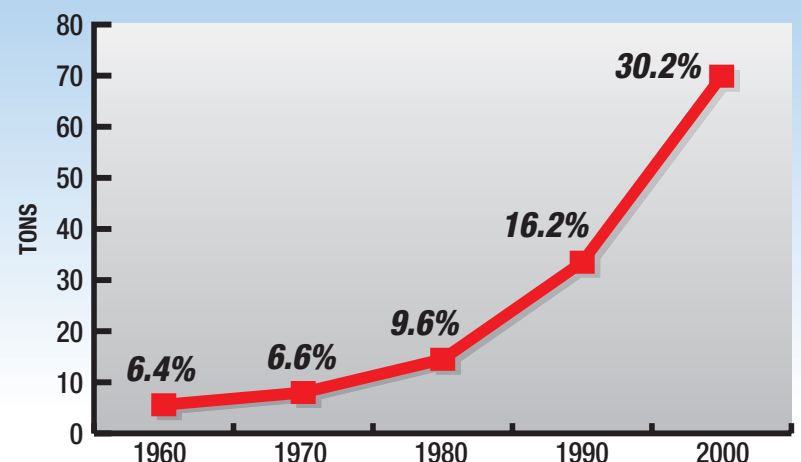
Materials Generated (before recycling), 2000



Recycling and Disposal, 2000



Recycling Rates, 1960-2000



Source: U.S. EPA's *Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 2000 Facts and Figures*

Put another log on the



If you have a wood-burning fireplace, consider purchasing "logs" made from old, waxed corrugated containers.

Wax-coated corrugated cardboard boxes are used to transport a variety of items, including a great deal of produce. Unfortunately, these boxes cannot be recycled with other non-coated cardboard because the wax is a contaminant in the recycling process. As a result, wax-coated corrugated is disposed at a much higher rate than its non-coated counterpart, which enjoys a recycling rate of about 75 percent.

While the wax-coated cardboard can't be recycled with other boxes, it does have other potential uses. Several companies are using this material to create fireplace logs. Look for these "wax box" recycled logs at your fireplace supply retailer. If they aren't in stock, tell the manager about these logs and ask that the store stock them in the future.

For more information about these logs, visit:

- www.ciwm.ca.gov/recyclestore, and search for "logs" and "starters"
- www.waxboxfirelogs.com

Posting progress

New postal regulations are making it easier for post offices to donate undelivered samples to organizations that will get them to people in need.

The Postal Services estimates that post offices get stuck with about 164,000 tons of undelivered product samples every year. These samples include food, toothpaste, shampoo, diapers, soap, aspirin, and much more.

Under the new regulations, these items won't have to go in the trash. Post offices will be able to donate undelivered, unopened products to food banks, homeless shelters, and other non-profit organizations.

Helping post offices donate these materials will be the Reuse Development Organization (ReDO), a national non-profit devoted to all types of reuse, and America's Second Harvest, which provides emergency food assistance to more than 23 million hungry Americans each year, as well as local affiliates.

Food banks, shelters, and other interested non-profits should contact their nearest post office to ask to be placed on the list of organizations that will receive donated products. The receiving organization will be required to sign a release and provide the post office with some other information.

For more information about this and other exciting reuse projects, visit the ReDO website at www.redo.org or call 317-631-5395. Or, contact America's Second Harvest at 312-263-2303, or visit www.secondharvest.org.

To read the new postal regulations, go to www.usps.com/cpm/ftp/bulletin/2002/html/pb22088 and read the "Domestic Mail" section.

Samples to stay out of trash and help needy families

WHAT'S UP?

The recycling drop-off center that was located at South Square Mall has moved. It is now located in the parking lot behind the Firestone at the corner of University and Westgate Drives.

All of the following items can be recycled curbside and at all recycling drop-off centers in Durham: glass bottles and jars; plastic bottles coded #1, #2, #5, or #7; steel and aluminum food and beverage cans; aluminum foil and pie tins; gable-top beverage containers, such as milk or juice cartons; aseptic containers such as juice boxes; plastic six-pack rings; newspaper; corrugated cardboard; glossy magazines and catalogs; and white and colored office paper.

Remember—it is the law in Durham to recycle aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, newspaper, and corrugated cardboard.

El centro para dejar los artículos reciclables en South Square Mall fue movido al Firestone en South Square, ubicado en la esquina de University y Westgate Drives. Los contenedores están ubicados en la parte trasera del edificio. Los siguientes artículos se pueden reciclar en su bote de la acera o los Centros de Reciclaje: Latas de aluminio o de acero, Botellas o potes de vidrio, Botellas plásticas #1,2,5,7, Cajitas de jugo, Recipientes de bebidas como cartones de leche, Círculos plásticos de seis unidades, Papel de aluminio y los moldes de pasteles, Cartones corrugados, Periódicos, Papeles de oficina (blanco o de color), Revistas y catálogos lustrosos.

Many businesses and institutions have comprehensive recycling programs in place. Each year, the City recognizes Durham's innovative waste reducers with the DIVERT (Durham's Innovative Ventures Encouraging the Reduction of Trash) awards. For more information, please call 560-4185 or visit the City's website, www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/solid/wr_business_awards.asp.



¿Su negocio tiene un buen programa de reciclaje y reducción de desecho? Si contesto sí, solicite por "DIVERT award." Estos premios son dados anualmente por la Ciudad a negocios y organizaciones sin fines de lucro que están contribuyendo a ser buenos ciudadanos del ambiente.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

The City of Durham Department of Solid Waste Management Waste Reduction Program

1833 Camden Avenue
Durham, NC 27704

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70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS CONTENT, USING SOY INKS

"One Person's Trash..." is part of the Department of Solid Waste Management's educational campaign to promote waste reduction and recycling programs.

It's tree time

Holiday trees will be collected for recycling **January 6 through January 17**. Place trees at the curb by 7 a.m. on your household garbage collection day. Trees more than 6 feet tall need to be cut in half. Please

remove all decorations, including tinsel, lights, and ornaments, as well as stands, nails, and any other hardware. Do NOT place trees in bags.

The trees will be collected and taken to the City's Compost Facility.

For more information, call 560-4185.

Se recolectarán los árboles de navidad de los residentes desde el 6 al 17 de enero, 2003. Esté seguro que todos los ornamentos y decoraciones fueron removidos de su árbol y puesto en la acera el día que recolectan su basura. Árboles de más de 6 pies de altura tienen que ser cortados por la mitad.



Sign up now for the City's Yard Waste Collection Program!

Frequently asked questions about the program

What is yard waste?

Yard waste is vegetative debris from lawn and garden maintenance and includes grass clippings, leaves, vines, and tree and shrub trimmings.

Why can't I dispose of yard waste with my regular trash?

State law bans the disposal of yard waste in sanitary landfills, thus prohibiting the collection of yard waste as part of the regular roll-out trash cart program. Residents who mix yard waste with regular trash will not have their carts collected and may be fined.

How do I sign up for yard waste service?

Simply fill out and mail in the order form below with your payment. You must purchase a City-issued brown yard waste cart (90-gallon, the same size as your City-issued trash cart) for \$36. Once the cart is purchased, it is yours to keep. Additionally, there is a \$50 annual yard waste users fee that you pay when you sign up for service. When you pay this annual fee, you will receive a bar code sticker that must be affixed to your cart. You can pay for the cart and annual fee by check or money order, or charge it to your City utility bill.

If I buy more than one yard waste cart, do I have to pay more than one annual fee?

No. You pay one annual fee per household and receive one bar code sticker. Place the sticker on one of your carts. As long as one of your carts has the sticker and it is visible to the collector, all of them will be serviced.

When is my yard waste collected?

Yard waste is collected the day after your trash is collected. Your cart must be at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

What happens to yard waste once it is collected?

Yard waste is brought to the Compost Facility located at the City's Waste Disposal & Recycling Center. It is then processed into mulch and compost.

Do I have to use a City-issued brown roll-out cart for my yard waste to be collected?

Yes. A City-issued brown roll-out cart with a bar code sticker at the curb lets the collector know that you are a yard waste customer. If you do not have a brown cart, your yard waste will not be collected. In addition, your cart will have a bar code sticker that identifies it as yours and verifies that you have signed up for service.

What if I have more yard waste than will fit in my brown roll-out cart?

After the brown roll-out cart is full, you may use your empty green roll-out trash cart and biodegradable brown paper yard waste bags (available at building supply and hardware stores in 30-gallon size). You may also put out brush tied in bundles that are no more than 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter. No individual piece of brush may be larger than 3 inches in diameter. Yard waste in plastic bags will NOT be collected.

What if I have brush that is longer than 4 feet or larger than 3 inches in diameter?

You may request a bulky brush pickup. The fee for this pickup is \$20 per standard truckload (approximately 4 cubic yards). If you sign up for yard waste service, you will get 8 cubic yards of bulky brush materials (large tree and brush trimmings not collected with the yard waste roll-out cart) picked up for free each year. Call 560-4185 for more information or to schedule a pickup.

Is there any other way I can dispose of my yard waste?

Yes. Residents may take their leaves and grass clippings for a fee to the City's Waste Disposal & Recycling Center, 2115 E. Club Boulevard, 560-4611. Also, com-

Serving you...the TFC Recycling Office Staff

The Department of Solid Waste Management wants you to be able to put faces to the names of the staff at TFC Recycling. TFC staff assists you with your recycling needs in Durham. If you are new to the area and need a recycling bin or if your bin has been damaged and you need a replacement, call TFC at 957-8803.



TFC Recycling Office staff, left to right, Diane Skipwith, Connie Hand, and Teresa Thorpe.

TFC Recycling es el contratista para la Ciudad de Durham que recolecta su reciclaje en el bordillo de la acera. El personal de TFC que contesta el teléfono cuando usted llama para que le entreguen un recipiente nuevo o cuando tenga preguntas sobre el reciclaje son amables.

A to Z Recyclopedia!

Visit Durham's Recyclopedia! To learn about recycling anything in Durham, visit www.ci.durham.nc.us/departments/solid/recycle_index.asp or www.p2pays.org/dmrm.



Effective July 1, 2002, yard waste customers have to pay a \$50 annual users fee for yard waste collection service. Once the fee is paid, you will receive a yellow bar code sticker, like the one pictured, to affix to the front of the brown cart.

posting and grass recycling (grass left on the lawn to decompose) are excellent—and free—alternatives.

How long will it take for my yard waste cart to be delivered?

Yard waste carts will be delivered in the order in which requests are received. Every effort will be made to deliver the cart(s) within one week of receipt of the request. Or, you may pick up your cart at the Solid Waste Operations Facility at 1833 Camden Avenue.

Order Form for Yard Waste Service *Please print clearly.*

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Quantity	Cost
___ 90-gallon yard waste cart(s) @ \$36 each	\$ _____
\$50 users fee (required)	\$ 50
Total Cost	\$ _____

Payment Options (choose 1)

- ☐ Enclosed is a check or money order made payable to the City of Durham. Please indicate on the check or money order that the payment is for yard waste service.
- ☐ Please charge my water utility bill. My account number is _____.
- ☐ I have already paid the \$50 users fee and would like to purchase _____ additional cart(s) @ \$36 each: (choose 1)
- ☐ by check (enclosed) ☐ charge utility bill (acct. # _____)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cut out and mail this order form with payment to:

Dept. of Solid Waste Management • 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701

ATTN: Yard Waste

Or fax (if your utility bill will be charged): (919) 560-4647

El Departamento de Dirección de Desechos Sólidos ofrece servicios de recolección de desechos del jardín a los residentes que compran las carretas especiales color café proporcionada por la Ciudad y pagan la cuota anual de \$50.00. Desecho del jardín incluye desechos del mantenimiento del césped y jardín incluyendo las hojas, hierba cortada o plantas. Los materiales recolectados en el programa son reciclados y convertidos en mantillo y abono. La ley estatal no permite deshacerse de desechos del jardín con basura regular. Llame al Servicio al Cliente al 560-4185 para mayor información.